

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

J. C. CAPT, Director (Appointed May 22, 1941)

WILLIAM LANE AUSTIN, Director (Retired January 31, 1941)

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES : 1940

POPULATION

FAMILIES

Employment Status

Regions and Cities of 1,000,000 or More

Prepared under the supervision of

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SIXTEENTH CENSUS OF THE UNITED STATES: 1940

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Volume

- I Number of Inhabitants, by States.
- II Characteristics of the Population, by States.
- III The Labor Force—Occupation, Industry, Employment, and Income, by States.
- IV Characteristics by Age—Marital Status, Relationship, Education, and Citizenship, by States.

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Supplement: Block Statistics for Cities.
- II General Characteristics of Housing, by States.
- III Characteristics by Monthly Rent or Value, by States.
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FOREWORD

Sampling techniques were utilized in the Sixteenth Decennial Census for the first time in the history of the Population Census. The use of sampling methods permitted the collection of statistics on a larger number of inquiries than had heretofore been possible, the release of preliminary population statistics at an early date, and the tabulation of a great many social and economic characteristics of the population at a relatively low cost.

This report is based on tabulations of a sample of the population returns and presents statistics for families classified according to employment status of the family members. These statistics show how the supply of labor is related to the family composition of the population, and illustrate some of the problems involved in a major expansion of the labor force. In addition, they provide indications of the economic effects of unemployment and of the resulting need for public assistance during a period of large-scale unemployment. National statistics on these subjects have never before been available. This report was prepared under the supervision of Dr. Leon E. Truesdell, Chief Statistician for Population, and Dr. A. Ross Eckler, Assistant Chief Statistician, by William H. Mautz, Chief of Economic Statistics, Dr. John D. Durand, and Edwin D. Goldfield. The sampling procedures were under the direction of Dr. W. Edwards Deming, Mathematical Adviser.

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FAMILIES, 1940

EMPLOYMENT STATUS

INTRODUCTION

GENERAL

This report presents detailed data on employment and unemployment for families, based on tabulations of a sample of the returns of the Sixteenth Decennial Census of Population, taken in April 1940.¹ Families are classified by number of persons in the labor force, number of employed persons, number of persons seeking work, and number of persons on public emergency work in the family during the census week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and according to employment status of the family head, wife, and other family members. Statistics on these subjects are presented for families classified according to family composition, that is, by sex and marital status of the family head and number of children and other persons in the family; and according to color, age, and major occupation group of the family head.

These statistics are designed for use in the analysis of problems of labor supply and unemployment. The classifications by number of persons in the labor force, and by labor force status of wives and other family members, for various types of families, show how the supply of labor is related to the family composition of the population, and illustrate the family problems involved in a major expansion of the labor force. The data for families classified by numbers of employed and unemployed workers, and by employment status of the family head, wife, and other members, indicate the economic effects of unemployment and the resulting need for public assistance, during a period of large-scale unemployment.

More detailed statistics on these subjects were obtained in the 1940 census than in any previous census of the United States. In the 1930 census families were classified by number of gainful workers, but no statistics were obtained prior to 1940 on family employment status, employment status of family heads, wives, and other family members, and occupations of family heads.

Related reports on families.—This is one of a series of reports presenting statistics for families, based on tabulations of samples of the returns of the 1940 Censuses of Population and Housing. The specific titles of other reports in this series, and a brief summary of the subjects covered, are given below:²

General Characteristics: Characteristics of families and of family heads for States, cities of 100,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 200,000 or more, are presented in this report. Heads of families are shown by employment status, major occupation group, race, sex, marital status, and other characteristics. Families are classified according to number of persons in the labor force, family employment status, labor force status of children 14 to 17 years old, class-of-worker composition, wage or salary income in 1939, size of family, number of children, and other family characteristics. Statistics for quasi households, such as institutions, hotels, and lodging houses, are also shown in this report.

Family Wage or Salary Income in 1939: Statistics on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 are

presented in this report for families classified by number of earners, months worked in 1939 by earners, wage or salary income of the head and the wife, major occupation group of the head, and other characteristics of the head and of the family. Data are presented for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Income and Rent: Data on wage or salary income and receipt of other income in 1939 are shown in this report for urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent, and cross-classified by housing characteristics, family characteristics, and characteristics of the head. Statistics are presented for urban and rural-nonfarm areas of regions, and of metropolitan districts of 1,000,000 or more.

Tenure and Rent: Data for urban and rural-nonfarm families classified by tenure and rent and cross-classified by family characteristics and characteristics of the head, are presented in this report for regions, cities of 1,000,000 or more, and metropolitan districts of 500,000 or more.

Types of Families: Characteristics of families by family type, that is, by sex and marital status of head and number of children, are presented in this report by age of head and other characteristics of the head and of the family. Statistics are shown for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Size of Family and Age of Head: Characteristics of families and of family heads, by type and size of family and age of head, are presented in this report for regions and cities of 1,000,000 or more.

Characteristics of Rural-Farm Families: Rural-farm families are classified in this report by tenure, occupation of the head, and in some cases by value or rent, and cross-classified by selected housing characteristics, family characteristics, and characteristics of the head. Statistics are presented for regions and geographic divisions.

Related Reports on Population.—Labor force data for individuals, corresponding to those given here for families, are presented in other 1940 census reports on Population. Data on employment status of persons in the labor force by sex, age, color, marital status, occupation, industry, and class of worker, and statistics on hours worked in the census week, months worked and wage or salary income in 1939, and duration of unemployment, are presented in Volume III of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force." Data on employment status of the population, and on school attendance of employed workers, by age, sex, and color, are presented in Volume IV of the Reports on Population, entitled "Characteristics by Age." Condensed labor force statistics for States, all cities and other urban places, counties, and principal metropolitan districts are given in Volume II of the Reports on Population, entitled "Characteristics of the Population," which includes data on employment status, class of worker, major occupation group, and industry group.

Additional statistics on the characteristics of individuals in the labor force are presented in a series of reports published under the general title, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics." One of those reports, entitled "Employment and Personal Characteristics," includes statistics on employment status, class of worker, major occupation group, and months worked in 1939 for heads of families, wives of heads, and other family members classified by marital status and other characteristics; together with statistics on age, sex, color, and other personal and economic characteristics of the labor force, for the United States by regions. Another report in that series, entitled "Employment and Family Characteristics of Women," presents data on labor force status of women by marital

¹ The 1940 Population Census schedule is reproduced in Part 1 of Volume III and Part 1 of Volume IV of the Sixteenth Census Reports on Population. The instructions to enumerators are also reproduced in these volumes.

² At the time this report goes to press (June 1943), these reports are in various stages of completion, and the titles and contents may be somewhat altered before publication.

Sample statistics on employment status and occupations of women by number of children under 5 years old have been obtained in tabulations relating to fertility of women 15 to 74 years old. The results of these tabulations remain to be published.

Areas.—Most of the statistics in this report are presented for the United States and for four regions: The Northeastern States, the North Central States, the South, and the West. The States included in each of these regions are shown in the accompanying map. In addition, statistics on many of the subjects are presented for each of the five cities of 1,000,000 inhabitants or more (New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, and Detroit). In some cases, figures for regions and cities are omitted or presented in condensed form.

Almost all of the statistics for the United States and regions are presented separately for urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm areas, because of the great differences among these areas in the employment status and occupational characteristics of the population. Urban population, as defined by the Bureau of the Census, is in general that residing in cities and other incorporated places having 2,500 inhabitants or more. The remainder of the population is classified as rural, and is subdivided into the rural-farm population, which comprises all rural residents living on farms, without regard to occupation, and the rural-nonfarm population, which comprises the remaining rural population.

Availability of unpublished data.—All of the 1940 family statistics shown in this report were tabulated separately for each city of 1,000,000 or more and for the urban, rural-nonfarm, and rural-farm remainder of each region. For each area the tabulations were made by color, separately for families with male head, married, wife present, and all other families. Because sampling variations are larger in the more detailed cross-classifications, some of the statistics have been omitted or presented in condensed form. The unpublished statistics, so far as the figures are large enough to be significant, can be made available upon request, for the cost of transcribing or reproducing them. Requests for such statistics, addressed to the Director of the Census, Washington, D. C., will receive a prompt reply which will include an estimate of the cost of preparing the data.

FAMILIES AND FAMILY COMPOSITION

Family, private household, and quasi household.—The term "family," as defined in the 1940 and 1930 censuses, is limited to private families and excludes the small number of institutions and other quasi households. A private family comprises a family head and all other persons in the home who are related to the head by blood, marriage, or adoption, and who live together and share common housekeeping arrangements. A person living alone is counted as a one-person private family. A family head sharing his living accommodations with one or more unrelated persons, or providing rooms for the use of lodgers, servants, or hired hands, is also counted as a one-person private family. A group of related persons residing permanently or for an indefinite period in an apartment hotel is counted as a private family.

The term "private household" is used in the 1940 Population Census to include the related family members (who constitute the private family) and the lodgers, servants, or hired hands, if any, who regularly live in the home. Thus, the number of private households is the same as the number of private families, but the total number of persons in private households includes some individuals who are not members of private families. A family group reporting more than 10 lodgers is classified as a quasi household (specifically, as a lodging house) rather than as a private family or private household.

A quasi household is a group of persons not living in private families, such as those living in a boarding or lodging house, an institution, a school, a labor camp, a military or naval post, or the transient population of a hotel, or the crew of a vessel.

Although the family is defined on the basis of kinship rather than on the basis of economic relationships, it is generally an economic unit, since the related persons living under one roof usually pool their resources, at least to some extent. In some cases, however, the members of a family are financially more or less independent, especially in the case of families which contain one or more subfamilies, such as married

living in separate households, but are contributing to the support of the family.

Head of family.—One person in each family was designated in the 1940 census as the family head, that is, the person regarded as the head by the members of the family. The number of heads of families is, therefore, equal to the number of families. The head of a private family is usually a married man, and is usually the "economic head" or chief breadwinner in the family. In some cases, however, the head is a dependent or a secondary breadwinner, such as a parent of the chief earner, or is the only adult member of the household. Some heads are persons living alone, who may have no dependents, and some are unattached individuals sharing living accommodations with "partners."

Wife.—Some of the tables in this report present data for families with male head, married, wife present, classified according to characteristics of the wife, that is, the wife of the family head.

Family composition.—Classifications according to family composition are included in many of the tables in this report, in order to indicate the number of dependents in the family, and the number of adults potentially available for employment. For these purposes, families are classified by sex and marital status of the family head, number of children, and number of persons in the family other than the head, wife, and children. These classifications are described in the paragraphs which follow.

Sex and marital status of head.—In the classification of families by sex and marital status of head, presented in this report, three groups are shown: (a) Families with male head, married, wife present; (b) families with male head of other marital status; and (c) families with female head. In some cases, the last two categories are combined, and designated "all other families."

A male head was classified as "married, wife present" if his wife was reported as a member of the household in which he was enumerated. Other families with male head comprise those in which the head was single, widowed, or divorced, and those in which the head was married with wife absent from the household. Male heads married with wife absent include married men whose families had been broken by separation (often preceding divorce), immigrants whose wives were abroad, husbands of women enumerated as inmates of institutions, and other married male heads whose usual place of residence was not the same as that of their wives.

Families with female heads are, for the most part, those in which the head was a widow. They include also families in which the head was a single or divorced woman or a married woman with husband absent from the household. Females were not classified as heads of families if their husbands were living in the household at the time the census was taken.

Number of children.—In many of the tables, families are classified according to number of children under 18 years old in the family. In table 11, showing the labor force status of wives, families with male head, married, wife present, classified by number of children under 18, are further classified by ages of the children, showing the number under 10 and the number 10 to 17 years old. In table 8, 1930 statistics on number of gainful workers are presented for families classified by number of children under 21 years old; 1930 data for families by number of children under 18 years old are not available.

The tabulation of children under 10 years old includes all children within this age class who are related to the head of the family either by blood or adoption. Stepchildren are included, but neither foster children nor wards. Grandchildren, nephews, nieces, and other related children neither sons nor daughters of the head are included, but their number is relatively small. The count of children under 18 and of children under 21 excludes married children living with the family.

Statistics on families by number of children under 18 years old are significant principally because the great majority of such children are still financially dependent upon their parents. The classification by age of the children is useful as an indication of the number of women who are unable to accept jobs because of responsibility for the care of young children.

than head, wife, and children under 18. The latter persons are such relatives as sons and daughters 18 years of age or older, parents, and brothers and sisters of the family head. Lodgers, servants, guests, etc. are omitted, since these are not included among the members of the family. The classification by number of persons other than head, wife, and children gives an indication of the total number of adults in the family who may be actual or potential workers.

Color.—In all of the detailed tables for the United States and for the South, in this report, statistics are presented separately for families with white and nonwhite heads. Nonwhites include Negroes, Indians, Chinese, Japanese, and other nonwhite races. The great majority of the nonwhites are Negroes, except in the West, where there are many Indians, Chinese, and Japanese. For regions other than the South, and for cities of 1,000,000 or more, some of the tables present data for all families and for those with nonwhite heads. In the more detailed tables for these areas, no classification by color is presented.

Persons of Mexican birth or ancestry who were not definitely Indian or of other nonwhite race were returned as white in 1940. Such persons were designated Mexican in 1930, and were included in the general class of "Other races." Where possible, the 1930 data for whites and nonwhites shown in this report have been adjusted to conform to the 1940 definition. In table 8, however, this adjustment could not be made.

PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE

In many of the tables in this report, families are classified according to the number of related persons 14 years old and over who were in the labor force during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The labor force consists of persons 14 years old and over who were employed for pay or profit or engaged in unpaid family work, on public emergency work, or seeking work during the census week. (For definitions of these groups, see "Employment status categories," below.) Persons not in the labor force comprise all other persons 14 years old and over, including those reported as engaged in own home housework, in school, or unable to work; others not employed, not on public emergency work, and not seeking work; and persons for whom employment status was not reported. Persons in the labor force are sometimes referred to as "workers" in the pages that follow.

The data for families by number of persons in the labor force, which are summarized in table I for the United States and for urban and rural areas, provide an indication of the number of persons normally contributing to the support of the family. Many persons not in the labor force, however, derive income from sources such as pensions, investments, and public assistance payments, which often provide a large part, and sometimes all, of the family's means of support. Most of the families with no members in the labor force presumably derive their support from such sources.

Table I. FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample D]

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE	United States	Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm
All families.....	35,087,440	20,749,200	7,261,340	7,076,900
Families having--				
No persons in labor force.....	3,446,920	2,053,640	971,480	421,800
1 person in labor force.....	20,608,480	11,703,060	4,442,320	4,463,100
2 persons in labor force.....	7,630,560	4,809,920	1,943,960	1,476,680
3 persons in labor force.....	2,348,140	1,487,100	363,280	497,760
4 or more in labor force.....	1,053,340	695,480	140,300	217,560
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
All families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Families having--				
No persons in labor force.....	9.8	9.9	13.4	6.0
1 person in labor force.....	58.7	56.4	61.2	63.1
2 persons in labor force.....	21.7	23.2	18.5	20.9
3 persons in labor force.....	6.7	7.2	5.0	7.0
4 or more in labor force.....	3.0	3.4	1.9	3.1

The typical family has only one person in the labor force, usually the family head. Of all families, 58.7 percent had one person in the labor force, 21.7 percent had two, 6.7 percent

families.

In comparing the figures on number of persons in the labor force for rural-farm families with those for urban and rural-nonfarm families, allowance should be made for the fact that a large proportion of the workers in rural-farm families are unpaid helpers on the family farm. In many farming areas, the majority of the women and older children are engaged at least to some extent in unpaid farm work, but such workers are often employed only occasionally, or for only a few hours a day, and they may contribute relatively little to the profits of the family enterprise. Enumerators were instructed not to return as in the labor force persons engaged only in occasional tasks, incidental chores, or own home housework. It was often difficult, however, to distinguish between work for pay or profit or unpaid family work on the one hand, and incidental farm chores or home housework on the other.

It should also be borne in mind that the census was taken in a season during which agricultural employment is at a comparatively low level. If the enumeration had been made in the summer or early fall, when a great many women and children are employed as seasonal farm laborers, the proportion of rural-farm families having more than one person in the labor force would have been much larger.

Individual workers by labor force status of their families.—A classification of individuals in the labor force according to the number of persons in the labor force in their families is presented in table II, which is derived from the statistics for families by number of persons in the labor force and from data based on tabulations of individuals. (See "Method of deriving data for individuals by employment characteristics of their families," below.) The sole workers in families having only one person in the labor force made up 38.9 percent of the individuals in the labor force during the census week; 50.6 percent of the labor force were in families having one or more other workers. The remaining 10.5 percent consisted of persons not in private families, such as lodgers, servants, and residents of boarding and lodging houses, hotels, and institutions.

Table II. PRIMARY AND SECONDARY WORKERS, BY NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE IN THEIR FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based partly on Sample D and partly on Sample B]

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE IN THE FAMILY	Total individuals in labor force	IN PRIVATE FAMILIES	
		Primary workers	Secondary workers
Total.....	52,965,280	-	-
In private families.....	47,398,980	31,640,520	15,758,460
1 person in labor force.....	20,608,480	20,608,480	-
2 persons in labor force.....	15,261,120	7,530,560	7,630,560
3 persons in labor force.....	7,044,420	2,348,140	4,696,280
4 or more in labor force.....	4,484,960	1,053,340	3,431,620
Not in private families.....	5,566,300	-	-
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION			
Total.....	100.0	-	-
In private families.....	89.5	100.0	100.0
1 person in labor force.....	38.9	65.1	48.4
2 persons in labor force.....	28.8	24.1	48.4
3 persons in labor force.....	13.3	7.4	29.8
4 or more in labor force.....	8.5	3.3	21.6
Not in private families.....	10.5	-	-

Primary and secondary workers.—The data for families by number of workers also permit a classification of the labor force into "primary workers," that is, those persons in the labor force who were the chief breadwinners in their families; and "secondary workers," comprising the supplementary workers in families having two or more persons in the labor force. This classification also is presented in table II. The number of primary workers (which is by definition the same as the number of families with one or more persons in the labor force) was 31,640,520, representing 59.7 percent of the labor force during the census week. Primary workers included the 20,608,480 sole workers in families with only one person in the labor force, and the 11,032,040 workers who were the chief breadwinners in families with two or more persons in the labor force.

Secondary workers in families with two or more persons in the labor force numbered 15,758,460, and represented 29.8 percent of the labor force.

Increases and decreases in the labor force are brought about mainly by changes in the number of secondary workers. The number of primary workers tends to be fixed rather rigidly by the family organization of the population.

The interpretation of the data on persons in the labor force is affected by the fact that the employment status classification is comparatively unreliable for women, children, and aged persons, who make up the majority of the secondary workers. Women working part time and at the same time keeping house, and students employed part time after school, may often have been reported as not in the labor force. It was often difficult to determine the proper classification for aged persons, not employed during the census week, whose physical ability to work was doubtful.

Family composition in relation to number of persons in the labor force.—Statistics showing the composition of families having various numbers of persons in the labor force are useful for studying dependency problems, and for analyzing the family factors which affect the supply of labor. For this purpose, families with each number of persons in the labor force are classified according to sex and marital status of head, number of children under 18 years old, and number of persons in the family other than the head, wife, and children under 18. These classifications show approximately how many of the adult family members were in the labor force, and how many dependents of various types they had to support. The figures also give information regarding the importance of family responsibilities as a factor limiting the employment of the adults who were not in the labor force.

In applying these statistics to the analysis of the labor force status of adult family members, allowance must be made for the fact that in some families one or more children 14 to 17 years old were included in the number of persons in the labor force. For this reason, in some families the figures exaggerate the proportion of workers among the adult members, and in a few families the number of workers exceeds the number of persons other than children under 18. Only 1,066,660 families, or 3.0 percent of all families, however, had one or more children 14 to 17 years old in the labor force.

In the classification by family composition, the category of families having male head of "other marital status," or female head, with no children under 18 and no persons other than the head, represents individuals living alone or with unrelated "partners" as one-person families. Such families constituted 44.6 percent of the families having no persons in the labor force, and 9.8 percent of those with one worker (table 6).

Family relationships of persons in the labor force.—Families with each number of persons in the labor force are classified by employment status of the head and by sex and marital status of head. For families with male head, married, wife present, a cross-classification of employment status of head by employment status of wife is presented, with a further classification according to number of other relatives, that is, sons, daughters, parents, etc., of the family head, who were in the labor force. Statistics for families classified by relationship of the workers to the family head can be derived from these tabulations. Such derivative data are presented for the United States in table III.

In the great majority of families having one person in the labor force, that person was the family head, although in 0.7 percent of such families the worker was the wife, and in 7.3 percent, some other relative was the only person in the labor force. In most families with two or more persons in the labor force, the head and one or more relatives other than the wife were workers, although in more than one-fourth of such families both head and wife were in the labor force.

Wives in the labor force.—Detailed statistics on labor force status of wives according to number and ages of children in their families are included in this report in order to show the principal relationships between employment of wives and their responsibilities for child care. Statistics for families with male head, married, wife present, are presented by labor force status of wife, number and ages of children, and age of the family head.

Additional data on this subject are presented in the report entitled "The Labor Force—Sample Statistics, Employment and Family Characteristics of Women." In that report data on labor force status are presented for all women 18 to 64 years old, by marital status and number or children under 10, subdivided into children under 5 and children 5 to 9 years old;

whereas data on labor force status are shown here for wives of family heads classified according to number of children under 18 years of age in the family, subdivided into children under 10 and children 10 to 17 years old. Moreover, in the report mentioned above, the classifications by number of children refer to the sons and daughters of the woman, including adopted children and stepchildren but excluding any other children, such as nephews, nieces, and grandchildren, who may have been present in the family; whereas in the tabulations presented here, all unmarried children under 18 years old in the family are included in the number of children under 18.

Table III. FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE AND RELATIONSHIP TO THE FAMILY HEAD, BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS OF HEAD, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

["Other relatives" refer to the members of the family, other than head and wife, in the labor force. Statistics based on Sample 2]

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE AND RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY HEAD	ALL FAMILIES		FAMILIES WITH MALE HEAD, MARRIED, WIFE PRESENT		All other families
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	
Total.....	35,087,440	-	26,605,800	-	8,481,640
Families having--					
No person in labor force.....	8,446,920	-	1,233,080	-	2,213,840
1 person in labor force.....	20,608,480	100.0	16,465,580	100.0	4,142,900
Head.....	18,962,980	92.0	15,868,840	95.4	3,094,140
Wife.....	137,640	0.7	137,640	0.8	-
Other relative.....	1,507,860	7.3	459,100	2.8	1,048,760
2 persons in labor force.....	7,630,560	100.0	6,225,790	100.0	1,404,760
Head and wife.....	2,388,940	31.3	2,388,940	38.4	-
Head and other relative...	4,537,120	59.5	3,811,840	58.0	925,480
Wife and other relative...	42,980	0.6	42,980	0.7	-
2 other relatives.....	661,520	8.7	182,220	2.9	479,300
3 or more in labor force.....	3,401,480	100.0	2,681,360	100.0	720,120
Head, wife, and 1 or more other relatives.....	576,520	16.9	576,520	21.5	-
Head and 2 or more other relatives.....	2,422,400	71.2	1,972,920	73.6	449,480
Wife and 2 or more other relatives.....	20,860	0.6	20,860	0.8	-
3 or more other relatives.	361,700	11.2	111,060	4.1	270,640

The low proportions in the labor force among wives in families with children under 10 years old reflect the importance of responsibilities for the care of young children, as an obstacle to the employment of their mothers outside the home. Children between the ages of 10 and 17 also tend to restrict somewhat the activities of their mothers, although in some cases the presence of such a child in the family, who may be able to take care of younger children during working hours, may make it possible for the mother to take a job.

A classification according to age of the family head is included in the tables on labor force status of wives, in order to provide an indication of the age of the wife. The age classification is based on the age of the family head at his last birthday before April 1, 1940, that is, age in completed years. The proportions of workers were comparatively low among wives in families in which the head was over 45 years of age, since most of these wives were in the age groups over 40 years, in which the proportion of women in the labor force is relatively small.

TRENDS IN NUMBER OF WORKERS

Major trends between 1930 and 1940 in the size and family distribution of the labor force are shown by comparisons of 1940 data on families by number of persons in the labor force with 1930 data on families by number of gainful workers. The 1940 and 1930 statistics for all families are presented in table 3, and 1930 statistics for families by number of gainful workers are shown in table 8 by race, sex, and marital status of head and number of children under 21 years old. The latter data, which were not published in the 1930 census reports, are given here for comparison with the 1940 figures for families classified by number of persons in the labor force according to color, sex, and marital status of head, and number of children under 18 years old (shown in table 6).

Comparability of 1940 data on persons in the labor force with 1930 data on gainful workers.—The statistics for families by number of gainful workers in 1930 are not directly compara-

ble with 1940 data for families by number of persons in the labor force, partly because of differences in definition and partly because of differences in the types of questions upon which the classifications were based. The gainful worker statistics in 1930 were obtained by means of questions regarding occupation rather than employment status. "Gainful workers" were persons 10 years old and over reported as having a gainful occupation, that is, an occupation in which they earned money or a money equivalent, or in which they assisted in the production of marketable goods, regardless of whether they were working or seeking work at the time of the census. The labor force is defined in the 1940 census on the basis of activity during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, and includes only persons 14 years old and over who were reported as employed, seeking work, or on public emergency work in that week. The following are the most important types of persons in private families for whom the 1940 labor force classification differed from the gainful worker classification used in the 1930 census:

a. Seasonal workers.—Seasonal workers who were neither working nor seeking work at the time of the census were not included in the 1940 labor force. Such persons were counted as gainful workers in 1930 if they reported an occupation.

b. New workers.—Persons without previous work experience seeking work during the census week, that is new workers, were included in the 1940 labor force; such persons were probably for the most part not counted as gainful workers in the earlier census. In 1930, however, the number of new workers was probably much smaller than at the time of the 1940 census.

c. Retired and disabled persons.—Persons unable to work and retired workers no longer working or seeking work were excluded from the labor force in the 1940 census. In the 1930 census such persons frequently reported their former occupations and were counted as gainful workers.

The comparison of the 1940 figures with those from the 1930 census is also affected by the fact that some persons who were actually working or seeking work at the time of the 1940 census were not counted as in the labor force because they failed to answer the employment status questions; and in the 1930 census many persons who were actually gainful workers were omitted from the figures because they failed to report their occupations. Furthermore, the 1940 labor force figures are restricted to persons 14 years old and over, whereas the number of gainful workers in earlier censuses included persons 10 years old and over. The number of workers 10 to 13 years old has become relatively small and no longer justifies the additional burden of enumeration and tabulation needed to retain the 10-year age limit.

Changes in distribution of all families by number of workers.—The average number of workers per family, as shown by the census figures for 1930 and 1940, declined during the decade. The proportion of families having no workers increased by more than one-half, rising from 6.0 percent in 1930 to 9.8 percent in 1940 (table 3). The proportion having one worker decreased from 62.1 percent of the families in 1930 to 58.7 percent in 1940, and similar declines occurred in the percentages of families having three, and four or more workers. The proportion with two workers, on the other hand, rose slightly, from 21.1 to 21.7 percent. These differences are attributable partly to the effects of the economic and social trends during the decade, and partly to the differences in the questions and definitions used in the two censuses.

Most of the increase for families with no workers, and part of the decrease for one-worker families, may be attributed to the decline shown by the census figures for 1930 and 1940 in the proportion of workers among elderly individuals, especially among persons 65 years old and over. This decline is probably due partly to the more nearly uniform exclusion of retired and disabled persons from the 1940 labor force.

The slight increase in the proportion of families with two workers is in accord with the trend toward increasing employment of married women, who make up a considerable proportion of the secondary workers in such families. In the case of families with three or more workers, the effect of increasing participation in the labor market on the part of married women was offset by sharp decreases in the proportions of workers among children under 18 years old and among family members 65 years old and over. Changes in the proportions of families having various numbers of workers were affected also by shifts during the decade in the average size and composition of families. Finally, these changes may have reflected to a considerable extent the differences in the questions and definitions used in the two censuses.

Trends in number of workers by family composition.—The economic and social factors which affected the shifts described above are shown more clearly by the 1930 and 1940 statistics for particular types of families, summarized in table IV. The classification by family composition shown in this table gives sex and marital status of the family head, number of children under 18 years old for 1940, and number of children under 21 years old for 1930. It should be borne in mind that the proportion of workers among children 18 to 20 years old is much greater than that among children under 18. The inclusion of children 18 to 20 years old in the 1930 classification by number of children therefore tends to increase the 1930 proportion of multiworker families among families with several children, and to reduce the proportion among families with few or no children, as compared with the corresponding proportions for 1940.

Table IV. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, MARCH 1940, AND BY NUMBER OF GAINFUL WORKERS, 1930, BY SEX AND MARITAL STATUS OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN, FOR THE UNITED STATES

[1930 figures exclude families for which marital status of head was not reported. 1930 figures for white and Negro families have not been adjusted to include as white the Mexican families which were classified with "Other races" in the 1930 reports. 1940 statistics based on Sample D]

SEX AND MARITAL STATUS OF HEAD AND NUMBER OF CHILDREN UNDER 18 OR UNDER 21 YEARS OLD	All families	FAMILIES HAVING SPECIFIED NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE (1940) OR GAINFUL WORKERS (1930)				
		None	1	2	3	4 or more
1940						
Total families.....	100.0	9.8	58.7	21.7	6.7	3.0
Families with male head, married, wife present....	100.0	4.6	61.9	23.4	7.0	3.1
No children under 18.....	100.0	8.9	54.9	27.3	6.5	2.4
1 child under 18.....	100.0	1.8	66.0	22.2	7.0	3.0
2 or more under 18.....	100.0	1.6	67.2	19.7	7.4	4.1
All other families.....	100.0	26.1	48.8	16.6	5.9	2.6
No children under 18.....	100.0	29.3	51.1	13.9	4.1	1.5
1 child under 18.....	100.0	15.3	44.3	25.3	10.5	4.6
2 or more under 18.....	100.0	18.4	40.4	23.3	11.2	6.7
1930						
White and Negro families.....	100.0	6.0	62.1	21.2	7.2	3.6
Families with male head, married, wife present....	100.0	2.5	65.0	21.8	7.1	3.6
No children under 21.....	100.0	6.3	64.0	24.1	4.4	1.2
1 child under 21.....	100.0	1.1	68.6	21.2	6.6	2.4
2 or more under 21.....	100.0	0.5	63.9	20.4	9.3	5.9
All other families.....	100.0	19.5	50.9	19.0	7.2	3.4
No children under 21.....	100.0	23.5	57.1	14.4	3.8	1.2
1 child under 21.....	100.0	13.1	43.2	28.7	10.7	4.3
2 or more under 21.....	100.0	11.3	36.2	26.8	15.8	9.9

The increase in the proportion of families with two workers was confined to families with male head, married, wife present, and was greatest among those having no children. Increasing participation of wives in the labor force was doubtless the primary factor affecting the trend for such families. Most of the increase in the proportion of no-worker families occurred among families in which the head was a woman or an unmarried man; for such families the trend was doubtless due largely to the decrease in the proportion of workers among elderly persons, who make up a large proportion of the persons in families with female or unmarried male heads.

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT STATUS

The impact of unemployment upon families, during the period of large-scale unemployment in which the census was taken, is shown by the statistics in this report for families classified according to employment status of the persons in the labor force. These data are useful in the analysis of the social and economic effects of unemployment and the resulting need for public assistance, since the family is the principal consuming unit in the economic system.

Employment status categories.—Family members in the labor force are divided into three employment status groups: Employed, on public emergency work, and seeking work. The categories "on public emergency work" and "seeking work" are combined in some of the tables in this report to form the group "unemployed." The three employment status classes are defined below:

Employed.—The group classified as employed includes persons who worked for pay or profit at any time during the

week of March 24 to 30, 1940, in private work or nonemergency Federal, State, or local government work, or assisted without pay on a family farm or in a family business; and persons not actually at work and not seeking work during that week, but with jobs, businesses, or professional enterprises from which they were temporarily absent because of vacation, illness, industrial dispute, bad weather, or layoff not exceeding four weeks with definite instructions to return to work on a specific date.

On public emergency work.—This category includes persons who, during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, were at work on, or assigned to, public emergency work projects conducted by the Work Projects Administration (WPA), the National Youth Administration (NYA), the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC), or State or local work relief agencies.

Seeking work.—This category represents persons without work of any sort in the week of March 24 to 30, 1940, who were actively seeking work during that week.

Family employment status classification.—In the classification by family employment status, families with each specified number of persons in the labor force are classified according to the number of these persons who were employed during the week of March 24 to 30, 1940. The numbers of completely employed, partly unemployed, and completely unemployed families are shown by this tabulation. "Completely employed" families are those in which all of the persons in the labor force were employed during the census week; "partly unemployed" families are those having one or more employed and one or more unemployed members; and "completely unemployed" families are those in which all of the members in the labor force were unemployed during the census week. The combination of partly unemployed and completely unemployed families gives the number of families affected by unemployment at the time of the census.

The proportion of the family's workers who are employed gives only a rough indication, of course, of the family's economic situation. Some of the families with all workers unemployed had only recently been stricken by unemployment and still possessed resources for their support. On the other hand, some of those with an employed member doubtless had such small incomes that their economic position was precarious.

The data on family employment status are summarized in table V for the United States and for urban and rural areas. The proportion of families affected by unemployment was much greater in urban and rural-nonfarm areas than in rural-farm areas. This difference was due to the fact that a large proportion of the workers in rural-farm families were farmers and unpaid helpers on family farms, for whom the risk of unemployment was comparatively small, although they may have made only small gains, or may even have suffered heavy losses, while they continued to operate their farms. Consequently, the statistics on family employment status give little indication of the economic well-being of rural-farm families.

Table V. FAMILIES BY FAMILY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample D]

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT STATUS	United States	Urban	Rural-nonfarm	Rural-farm
All families.....	35,087,440	20,749,200	7,261,340	7,076,900
Families having--				
No persons in labor force.....	3,446,920	2,053,640	971,480	421,800
1 or more in labor force.....	31,640,520	18,695,560	6,289,860	6,655,100
All employed.....	25,843,320	14,994,980	4,907,960	5,940,380
Some employed.....	2,792,250	1,941,840	499,880	350,740
None employed.....	3,004,940	1,758,940	882,020	363,980
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION				
All families.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Families having--				
No persons in labor force.....	9.8	9.9	13.4	6.0
1 or more in labor force.....	90.2	90.1	86.6	94.0
All employed.....	73.7	72.3	67.6	83.9
Some employed.....	8.0	9.4	6.9	5.0
None employed.....	8.6	8.5	12.1	5.1

Persons seeking work and on public emergency work.—In addition to the data on family employment status described above, statistics are presented in this report for families with one or more unemployed members, classified according to the number of persons seeking work and the number of persons on public emergency work in the family.

In the interpretation of the data on employment status, allowance must be made for the misclassification in the census returns of considerable number of public emergency workers. The number of persons reported in the census as on public emergency work in the United States was 2,529,606, whereas the number recorded on the pay rolls of the Federal emergency work agencies at about the time of the census was 2,906,196 excluding the NYA Student Work Program, and 3,377,978 including that program. The most common type of misclassification was the reporting of emergency workers as employed. Persons on the NYA Student Work Program were very frequently returned as in school and not in the labor force. There is also evidence that a considerable number of emergency workers were classified as seeking work. As a result, the data presented in this report understate the numbers of completely and partly unemployed families, and particularly understate the number of families having one or more members on public emergency work.

Employment status of families by number of persons in the labor force.—The risk of unemployment in a family depends to a considerable extent upon the number of persons in the labor force. The more workers in the family, the greater the chance that at least one will be out of a job at a given time, but, on the other hand, the smaller the risk that all will be unemployed at once. Consequently the distribution of families by number of persons in the labor force is an important factor affecting the amount of economic distress and the size of the relief load that is likely to result from the unemployment of a given number of individuals.

Table VI. PERCENT DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES BY FAMILY EMPLOYMENT STATUS, BY NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based on Sample D]

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE	Total	All employed	Some employed	None employed
Families having 1 or more persons in labor force.....	100.0	81.7	8.8	9.5
1 person in labor force.....	100.0	87.6	-	12.4
2 persons in labor force.....	100.0	76.4	19.0	4.7
3 persons in labor force.....	100.0	61.7	35.1	3.3
4 or more in labor force.....	100.0	48.3	49.6	2.1

Proportions of completely employed, partially unemployed, and completely unemployed families are shown in table VI for families having various numbers of persons in the labor force during the census week. As would be expected on the basis of elementary probability theory, both the percentage of completely employed families and the percentage of completely unemployed families were greatest in the families having few workers, and the percentage of partially unemployed families was greatest in the families having the largest number of workers. These percentages were affected, however, not only by the simple relationship between the number of workers and the chance of complete or partial family unemployment but also by a tendency for the proportion of individual workers unemployed to be greater in families having several workers than in families with only one or two persons in the labor force. This tendency was due mainly to the relatively great risk of unemployment for secondary workers, comparatively many of whom were in the age, sex, and occupational groups in which unemployment was most common. The strength of this tendency is shown by table VII, which gives the distribution by employment status of individual workers classified by number of persons in the labor force in their families, and by family employment status. (The figures in table VII are derived from the data on employment status of families by number of persons in the labor force, and by number of persons seeking work and on public emergency work, shown in tables 1 to 5.)

A third factor affecting the employment status distribution of multiworker families was a tendency for unemployment to strike all workers in a given family at the same time. This tendency is probably due mainly to similarities in the occupational and personal characteristics of the workers in a multiworker family. For example, the members of the family are of the same race; sons frequently follow the occupations of their fathers; and the workers are likely to be employed in the same industry, especially if the family lives in a community having only one or a few dominant industries. As a result, both the percentage completely unemployed and the percentage completely employed among families with two or more persons in the labor force were greater than those which would have been

expected if the risk of unemployment for an individual worker had been independent of the employment status of other workers in his family.³

Table VII. EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE, BY EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF THEIR FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based partly on Sample D and partly on Sample B]

FAMILY EMPLOYMENT STATUS	Total	Employed	UNEMPLOYED		
			Total unemployed	On public emergency work	Seeking work
Total individuals in labor force.....	52,966,280	45,381,360	7,584,920	2,452,440	5,132,480
In private families having--					
1 person in labor force...	20,606,480	18,057,000	2,551,480	1,275,780	1,275,720
2 or more in labor force..	26,790,500	22,447,640	4,342,860	997,220	3,345,640
All employed.....	18,169,280	18,169,280	-	-	-
Some employed.....	7,587,780	4,278,360	3,309,420	636,380	2,673,100
None employed.....	1,033,440	-	1,033,440	360,900	672,540
Not in private families....	5,567,300	4,876,720	690,580	179,460	511,120
PERCENT DISTRIBUTION					
Total individuals in labor force.....	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
In private families having--					
1 person in labor force...	38.9	39.8	33.6	52.0	24.9
2 or more in labor force..	50.6	49.5	57.3	40.7	65.2
All employed.....	34.3	40.0	-	-	-
Some employed.....	14.3	9.4	43.6	25.9	52.1
None employed.....	2.0	-	13.6	14.7	13.1
Not in private families....	10.5	10.7	9.1	7.3	10.0

Employment status of the families of unemployed individuals.—One of the most useful types of information that can be derived from the statistics on employment status of families by number of persons in the labor force is a classification of unemployed individuals according to employment status of their families, showing whether their families included other workers who might have been able to support the family, and whether any of these other workers were employed. Such a derivative classification is also shown in table VII. Of the persons seeking work or on public emergency work during the census week, 33.6 percent were the sole workers in their families, 13.6 percent were members of multi-worker families in which all the workers were unemployed, and 43.6 percent were in families having at least one employed member. The remaining 9.1 percent were lodgers, members of quasi households, and other persons not in private families.

Employment status of families by family composition.—Information regarding the burden of dependency upon the workers in families affected by unemployment is provided by data on family employment status by family composition. Families in each employment status group are classified according to sex and marital status of the family head, number of children under 18 years old, and number of persons in the family other than head, wife, and children.

For one-worker families in which the sole worker was unemployed during the census week, the classification by family composition indicates the number and types of dependents for whom the unemployed worker was responsible. For families with two or more persons in the labor force, the data on family composition do not show the number of dependents attached to the various individual workers, but even for these families the

³ For example, in families with two persons in the labor force, the proportion having the primary worker unemployed was about 11 percent (estimated on the assumption that this proportion was the same as the percentage unemployed among family heads in two-worker families with head in the labor force, shown in table 9), and the proportion having the secondary worker unemployed was about 16 percent (estimated on the assumption that this proportion was the same as the percentage unemployed among persons in the labor force other than the head in two-worker families having head in the labor force, which can be derived from table 9 in the manner described in the section "Method of deriving data for individuals by employment characteristics of their families," below). Thus, if the risk of unemployment for each worker had been independent of the employment status of the other worker, the proportion of two-worker families having both workers unemployed would have been expected on the basis of elementary probability theory to be about 2 percent (that is, .11 x .16), whereas the actual proportion was 4.7 percent. Similar computations for families with three, and four or more persons in the labor force give similar results.

data are valuable in indicating the total number of dependent persons in the family.

EMPLOYMENT STATUS OF HEAD AND WIFE

In addition to the data on family employment status, statistics are presented in this report for families classified by employment status of the family head and employment status of the wife. These data give further information regarding the employment situation of families and the family responsibilities of employed and unemployed individuals. The classification of families by employment status of the head is especially useful as an indication of the extent of financial distress resulting from unemployment, since the head is usually the principal breadwinner in the family.

The statistics on employment status of head and wife, presented here, are supplemented by the data on employment status of individuals by household relationship, which are shown in the report entitled, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics, Employment and Personal Characteristics." The latter report includes data on employment status, major occupation group, class of worker, and months worked in 1939, for heads of families, wives of heads, other relatives of heads, and persons not in private families, classified by age, sex, color, and marital status. Data for individuals in various family relationship groups who were not in the labor force during the census week, classified by age, sex, color, and other characteristics pertinent to the analysis of potential labor supply, are presented in the report entitled "Characteristics of Persons Not in the Labor Force."

Employment status of head by family employment status.

Statistics for families in various employment status groups, classified by employment status of head, and by sex, marital status, and color of head, are presented in table 9. In this table three categories of employment status are shown for family heads: (a) Employed, (b) in the labor force, but not employed (that is, unemployed), and (c) not in the labor force. (See "Employment status categories," above.) For families having some employed and some unemployed members, this classification gives an indication as to whether the person who was usually the primary worker in the family was among the unemployed members.

Employment status of head by employment status of wife.—A cross-classification of employment status of head by employment status of wife, for families with male head, married, wife present, by number of persons other than the head and wife in the labor force, is presented in table 10. For each spouse, the employment status classification in this table consists of three categories: Employed, unemployed, and not in the labor force.

These data show how many of the heads who were unemployed or not in the labor force had a dependent wife, and how many had an employed wife upon whom the family could depend for a part or all of its support. The data are also useful in the analysis of relationships between the employment status of family heads and the employment status of their wives. Proportions in the labor force for wives whose husbands were unemployed or not in the labor force, in comparison with the proportions for wives with employed husbands, give an indication of the extent to which wives may have been forced to look for work because of the unemployment or disability of their husbands. Additional data on this subject are given in the report entitled, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics, Employment and Family Characteristics of Women," which shows the classification by labor force status for married women with husband present, according to employment status of their husbands, presence or absence of children under 10 years old, and age of the woman.

Employment status of primary and secondary workers.—An analysis of unemployment of primary and secondary workers can be made by means of the data presented in tables 9 and 10. In table VIII, based on these tables, a classification by family relationship is presented for individuals in the labor force and for those who were unemployed during the census week. The groups of unemployed individuals who were presumably normally primary workers include the 2,551,480 unemployed persons who were the sole workers in one-worker families, the 1,112,300 unemployed heads in families with two or more workers, and some of the 624,480 unemployed members, other than heads, in multi-worker families with head not in the labor force. The groups in which the great majority were doubtless secondary workers include the 133,440 unemployed wives in families in which the

head was in the labor force and the 2,472,640 unemployed members other than heads and wives in families having head in the labor force. Thus about 50 percent of all unemployed individuals were normally primary workers, nearly 40 percent were secondary workers, and the remainder were not in private families.

Table VIII. INDIVIDUALS IN THE LABOR FORCE, AND UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS, BY RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY HEAD AND NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE IN THE FAMILY, FOR THE UNITED STATES: MARCH 1940

[Statistics based partly on Sample D and partly on Sample B]

NUMBER OF PERSONS IN THE LABOR FORCE AND RELATIONSHIP TO FAMILY HEAD	Total individuals in labor force	UNEMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS		
		Number	Percent of total	Percent distribution
Total.....	52,966,280	7,584,920	14.3	100.0
In private families having--				
1 person in labor force.....	20,608,480	2,551,480	12.4	38.6
Head of family.....	18,962,980	2,174,540	11.5	28.7
Wife of head.....	137,640	33,360	24.2	0.4
Other relative of head.....	1,507,860	343,580	22.8	4.5
2 or more in labor force.....	26,790,500	4,342,860	16.2	57.3
Head of family.....	9,924,980	1,112,300	11.2	14.7
Wife of head.....	3,029,300	145,240	4.8	1.9
In families with head in labor force.....	2,965,460	133,440	4.5	1.8
In families with head not in labor force.....	63,840	11,600	18.5	0.2
Other relative of head.....	13,836,220	3,085,320	22.3	40.7
In families with head in labor force.....	11,117,540	2,472,640	22.2	32.6
In families with head not in labor force.....	2,718,680	612,680	22.5	8.1
Not in private families.....	5,567,300	690,580	12.4	9.1

Unemployment rates were comparatively high for relatives (other than wives) of heads in multi-worker families, a group who made up the majority of the secondary workers in such families. Many of these relatives were in the age classes under 20 years old and 60 years old and over, in which unemployment rates at the time of the census were relatively high. Moreover, a comparatively large proportion of them were engaged in unskilled and semi-skilled occupations having relatively high unemployment rates, and a comparatively small percentage were employers and self-employed workers, for whom the risk of unemployment was much less than for wage or salary workers.

Employment status of head by family composition.—Statistics for families classified by employment status of the head, according to sex, age, marital status, and color of head and number of children under 18 years old in the family, are presented in tables 13 to 18. In the classification by employment status shown in tables 13 to 16, four categories are given: Employed, on public emergency work, seeking work, and not in the labor force.

These data give information regarding the family responsibilities of heads who were employed, unemployed, or not in the labor force during the census week. It should be borne in mind, however, that in some cases wives and children were not dependents. The classification by age of head, shown in tables 13, 17, and 18, is designed to illustrate the differences in the dependency problems involved in the unemployment of older and younger family heads.

MAJOR OCCUPATION GROUP OF HEAD

Occupational characteristics of family heads are shown in this report in relation to the composition of their families. Data are presented for families with employed head, by major occupation group, sex, marital status, age, and color of head, and number of children under 18 years old. Occupational characteristics of all family heads in the labor force are not shown in this report because of the difficulty of interpreting an aggregate consisting of (1) current occupations (for employed heads); (2) occupations pursued on emergency work projects (for heads on public emergency work); and (3) latest occupations (for heads seeking work), which may represent work that ended a week before the census date or years in the past.

In classifying occupation returns for 1940, the Bureau of the Census used a classification system with 451 occupation titles. The 11 major occupation groups shown for family heads in this report are principal subdivisions of the detailed classification. The occupations included in each major group are shown in the tables in Volume III of the Reports on Population, entitled "The Labor Force."

METHOD OF DERIVING DATA FOR INDIVIDUALS BY EMPLOYMENT CHARACTERISTICS OF THEIR FAMILIES

Data on employment status of individuals, classified by composition and employment characteristics of their families, can be derived from the data for families presented in this report, with the aid of the statistics on employment status of individuals by household relationship, obtained from tabulations for the five-percent sample of individuals identified as Sample B. Such derivative data are presented in tables II, VII, and VIII. The methods used in deriving these figures are described below. By the same methods many additional classifications can be derived which are pertinent to problems of labor supply, unemployment, and public assistance. For example, data on labor force status can be obtained for adult members of families classified by family composition; and employed and unemployed individuals can be classified by composition of their families, or by employment status of the family head. In many cases data can be derived separately for primary and secondary workers, or for family heads, wives, and other family members.

Table II presents a classification of individuals in the labor force by number of persons in the labor force in their families. The total number of individuals in the labor force, the number in private families (that is, heads of private households, wives of heads, and other relatives of heads), and the number not in private families (that is, nonrelatives of heads and persons not in private households) are obtained from the report entitled, "The Labor Force—Sample Statistics, Employment and Personal Characteristics." The numbers of individuals in the labor force in families having one, two, and three persons in the labor force are obtained by multiplying the number of such families (as shown in table 1) by 1, 2, and 3, respectively. The sum of these three products is subtracted from the total number of individuals in the labor force in private families, to obtain the number in families having four or more persons in the labor force. This computation yields an average of 4.26 persons in the labor force per family having four or more such persons.

Workers in families having each specified number of persons in the labor force are further classified in table II into two subgroups: Primary workers and secondary workers. Since primary workers are defined as persons in the labor force who were the chief breadwinners in their families, there was one primary worker for each family having one or more persons in the labor force; consequently the number of primary workers in families having each specified number of persons in the labor force is the same as the corresponding number of families. The statistics for secondary workers are obtained by subtracting the figures for primary workers from the totals for individuals in the labor force.

Similar methods can be used to obtain the distribution of individual workers by all characteristics that are presented in this report for families classified by number of persons in the labor force. It is usually necessary to assume for the purposes of such computations that the average of 4.26 persons in the labor force per family having four or more such persons did not vary with the characteristics of the family. For example, in computing the distribution of individuals in the labor force by number of children under 18 years old in the family, on the basis of the data presented in table 6, it must be assumed that for all families with four or more persons in the labor force, regardless of the number of children under 18 years old, the average number of workers was 4.26. Errors in such assumptions are not likely to have a great effect upon the results, because of the relatively small number of families with four or more persons in the labor force.

The data for individual workers by employment status of their families, presented in the first column of table VII, are obtained by applying the method described above to the figures for families in each employment status category. For example, the number of workers in families with two or more persons in the labor force, some employed, represents the sum of the following products: (a) The number of families with two workers, one employed, multiplied by 2; (b) the number of families with three workers, some employed, multiplied by 3; and (c) the number of families with four or more workers, some employed, multiplied by 4.26. In computing the figures shown in tables II, VII, and VIII, such averages were calculated to nine decimal places to avoid difficulties in rounding.

The classification by family employment status for employed individuals, shown in the second column of table VII, is obtained in the same manner from the data on families by number of employed persons, shown in table 1, with the aid of the totals for all employed individuals, for employed individuals in private families, and for those not in private families, shown in

the report entitled, "The Labor Force--Sample Statistics, Employment and Personal Characteristics." An average of 4.26 employed workers is assumed for families having four or more workers, all employed.

Likewise, the classification by family employment status for persons seeking work, which is presented in the last column of table VII, is derived from the data for families by number of persons seeking work, presented in table 4, and from the data for persons seeking work by household relationship, shown in the report mentioned above. The average number of persons seeking work per family having four or more persons in the labor force with three or more seeking work, computed in this manner, was 3.59; this average is assumed to apply alike to completely unemployed families and to partially unemployed families, having three or more persons seeking work.

The totals for unemployed individuals, which are shown in the third column of table VII, are obtained by subtracting the figures for employed persons from those for all persons in the labor force; and the figures for persons on public emergency work are derived by subtracting the number seeking work from the total unemployed.

Table VIII illustrates the manner in which individual workers, classified by number of persons in the labor force in their families, can be further classified according to their relationship to the family head, and according to labor force status of other members of the family. The totals for individuals in the labor force, and for unemployed individuals, in families having one person in the labor force and in those having two or more persons in the labor force, are obtained from table VII. The number who were family heads, and the number who were wives, classified by labor force status of head, are obtained directly from tables 9 and 10. The numbers of other relatives are obtained by subtracting the figures for heads and wives from the totals for family members in the labor force.

The figures shown in table VIII for "other relatives" in the labor force in multiworker families with head not in the labor force are obtained by computing the total number of individuals in the labor force (or the number of unemployed individuals) in such families, and subtracting from this total the number of wives in the labor force (or unemployed) in multiworker families with head not in labor force. The total number of workers in such families is computed by applying the methods used for table VII to the data for families by employment status of head and number of persons in the labor force, which appear in table 9. For this purpose it is assumed that the average of 4.26 persons in the labor force per family having four or more workers was the same for families with head in the labor force as for other families.

In order to compute the number of unemployed individuals in multiworker families with head not in the labor force, an additional assumption is required, because table 9 does not show a classification according to the precise number of unemployed workers for the small groups of partially unemployed families having three, and four or more persons in the labor force, but with head not in the labor force. The number unemployed in multiworker families with head not in the labor force represents the sum of the following figures for families with head not in the labor force: (a) The number with two persons in the labor force, one employed; (b) the number with two persons in the labor force, neither employed, multiplied by 2; (c) the number with three persons in the labor force, some employed, multiplied by 1.29 (that is, by the average number of unemployed individuals per three-worker partially unemployed family, computed from the figures in table 1 by the method described above); (d) the number with three persons in the labor

force, none employed, multiplied by 3; (e) the number with four or more in the labor force, some employed, multiplied by 1.54 (that is, by the average number of unemployed persons per family having four or more persons in the labor force, some employed, computed by the method described above); and (f) the number with four or more persons in the labor force, none employed, multiplied by 4.26.

COMPARISON BETWEEN RESULTS OF SAMPLE TABULATIONS AND COMPLETE COUNT

The 1940 family statistics shown in this report are based on tabulations of a sample of families, identified as Sample D. All of these statistics were obtained from the entries on the Population census schedule, where the individual members of a family were enumerated on consecutive lines. Sample D was designed so that in certain portions of the areas shown, a 2½-percent sample was used (multiplied uniformly by 40), and elsewhere a 5-percent sample was used (multiplied uniformly by 20). Exact agreement is not to be expected between these tabulations and the corresponding tabulations of a complete count, but the sample data nevertheless indicate the relationships among the various characteristics involved. With regard to the individual numbers in the tables, comparisons thus far made indicate that 95 percent of the numbers above 25,000 will differ from those given by the complete count by less than 5 percent, 95 percent of those between 10,000 and 25,000 will differ by less than 10 percent, and 95 percent of those between 2,500 and 10,000 will differ by less than 20 percent. Somewhat larger variations may occur in the case of numbers below 2,500, but even here the majority of the differences are less than 15 percent.

Some of the other reports in this series present data for families obtained from a different sample of families, identified as Sample F. The labor force data for individuals presented in text tables II, VII, and VIII, were obtained in part from tabulations of Sample D and in part from tabulations of a five-percent sample of individuals, identified as Sample B. It is to be expected that the results of tabulations from the various samples on a given subject may differ by a small amount for any area, because the samples represent different selections of families and individuals, and because the data from each sample were processed separately.

The numbers of families obtained from Sample D, and the numbers obtained from a complete count of the heads of private households shown on the Population schedule and from tabulations of Sample B, are presented in table IX. A discussion of the differences between the results of the various sample tabulations and the complete count is given in the Appendix to the report entitled "Families--General Characteristics."

Table IX. COMPLETE COUNT AND SAMPLE TABULATIONS, FOR NUMBER OF FAMILIES, FOR THE UNITED STATES, URBAN AND RURAL: 1940

AREA	Based on complete count ¹	BASED ON SAMPLE D		BASED ON SAMPLE B	
		Number	Percent of complete count	Number ¹	Percent of complete count
United States....	34,948,666	35,087,440	100.40	35,124,380	100.50
Urban.....	20,648,432	20,749,200	100.49	20,766,260	100.57
Rural-nonfarm.....	7,225,889	7,261,340	100.49	7,271,260	100.63
Rural-farm.....	7,074,345	7,076,900	100.04	7,086,860	100.18

¹ Figures obtained from tabulation of heads of private households.

MAP OF THE UNITED STATES SHOWING REGIONS, DIVISIONS, AND STATES

